

# CANNON FODDER NOW PLAYING OUT IN EUROPE; FEW MEN LEFT

Austro-German Host of 5,100,000 Will Begin to Fall Off in January at Rate of 400,000 a Month, While Joffre Can Only Fill Gaps Two Weeks Longer.

## DOWN TO THE LAST MILLION CONSCRIPTS

Kitchener Plans to Maintain Seventy-five Divisions at Full Strength and Put as Many Soldiers in Field as France Has Done; German Successes Likely.

(By JOHN R. BALDERSTON.)  
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PARIS, Oct. 23.—The beginning of the second winter campaign offers an opportunity such as has not occurred since the commencement of the war for a general stock taking of those factors, military, political and economic, which will ultimately determine the duration and the results of the present conflict.

This article deals with military factors until recently incalculable. It demonstrates that the two strongest war machines in the world, the Austro-German and the French, are now at the height of their power and will this winter commence growing weaker, a fact now susceptible of absolute proof. The winter campaign, as foreseen by military men who do not permit their patriotism to interfere with their judgment, are also foreseen.

There has been no moment during the past fifteen months when expert opinion on both sides has been so nearly agreed about the probable results to be attained on the battlefields during the campaigns in March and April. It will be another story in the spring. Great surprises are improbable or impossible now; one side or the other, or both, will attempt a great stroke when the snows melt.

The facts given below have been mainly compiled in allied countries, but they have been submitted in skeleton form to German authorities for comment and criticism and I have delayed writing until I could present the views of both sides and until the failure of General Joffre's great attempt to pierce the German lines has become manifest. It happens that this is written in Paris, but the analysis would not differ materially if sent from Berlin.

First, I will give a brief summary of the probable course of the fighting until next spring; second, the very much more important problem of the approaching exhaustion of the supply of fighting men and the consequent decrease in the size of the armies will

one, and with the great mass of their heavy shells diverted to other fronts, will maintain the stubborn defense of the last year, and in the spring we shall see what we shall see.

The privations of the soldiers this winter in the west will be immeasurably less than last year. No longer will the men stand day and night in icy water up to their knees. Since last spring, when the generals decided that another winter campaign on the same front was probable, thousands of huts have been built, crude but comfortable, and even the first trenches are now substantially dammed. "We do not expect one case of frostbite this winter for every twenty we had last year," an army surgeon told me.

"In the Air" Now.  
In Russia the present front is likely to be maintained without serious fighting excepting at the northern and southern ends of the line. In the center of the line the German troops can remain quietly on the defensive, but both wings are strategically "in the air" at this writing. It is the German objective to win Riga and the city of Dvinsk in the north and Rowna in the south, because if they can do this they will control a railway which, starting from Riga, runs through Dvinsk, Vilna, Iddu, Rowna, and then to Lublin. Free to move troops up and down this line, and maintaining their artillery superiority, the Germans would be too strong for the Russians to attempt a serious attack. The east's armies, with the Germans in control of the railway line, would be served by a very few widely separated railways running into the interior. The Russians are already divided into two groups by the great Dvinsk marshes, and this splitting of the enemy's forces was the chief of German strategy after the fall of Warsaw; not as was often assumed, the capture of Moscow or Petrograd.

Ivanoff Holds Firm.  
Experts in the west consider it probable although by no means certain, that the Germans will succeed in capturing Rowna and Dvinsk, and thus "anchoring" the northern part of their line to the famed railway. Hindenburg has been trying to win the line of the Dvinsk from Rowna to Dvinsk for two months. In the south, however, the German attempt to capture Rowna and the chief of the all-important railway is very unlikely to succeed, because General Ivanoff has built a formidable series of blockades to the Austro-German troops in that theater and seems to have the upper hand. The probability is that the winter will again be taken up in the district between Rowna and Lublin with bloody and indecisive battles the fighting line constantly fluctuating. And this result of the German failure to capture Rowna is just what the Teuton empire don't want, because they cannot afford to lose the men who will fall in a campaign of this nature, while the Russians can. Some French and British authorities believe General Ivanoff will recapture Lublin before spring.

### Balkan Situation.

An estimate of what will happen this winter in the Balkan theater of war must be very incomplete because of the uncertain attitude of Greece and Rumania. It is admitted, however, that there is no real hope of preventing a junction between Mackensen's Austro-German armies and the Bulgarians, which will give the Germans the control of the Anglo-French armies. I have promised, but to speculate at this time. As for the Dardanelles, the arrival there of Austrian heavy guns and German heavy troops, and above all, shells, may force the withdrawal of the British and French troops, who now occupy positions every yard of which is commanded by Turkish cannon which do not kill all the infidels only because they have not shells enough. The retreat and contribution of the allies from before positions occupied by a numerically superior enemy will entail terrible losses of not complete disaster, and this is the reason why the murderous attempt to force the straits has not already been abandoned. If it were possible, without loss, to withdraw safely the troops now on the Gallipoli peninsula, it would have been done.

No more serious fighting will take place around the Alps. The snow already having made operations impossible, but the valley of the Isomero river will see sanguinary combats before spring, and there are those who think General Cadorna plans a general attack in the spring of taking Trieste. It is regarded as improbable that such an attack can succeed.

### Situation Next March.

The military situation next March, then, will be this:  
The front from the North sea to Switzerland and the Alps will be virtually unchanged; progress by the Italians at the head of the Adriatic is possible, but improbable; in Russia the Germans will probably have made some headway in the north, have held their present position in the center, and have lost ground in Volhynia and Galicia, without, however, seriously impeding their whole line. In the Balkans, the Serbian army, if not destroyed, will probably be driven into its southwestern mountain fastnesses, and there, the Germans will probably be in Constantinople, and the British and French may very possibly suffer a major disaster at the Dardanelles and be unlikely to win any successes in that direction, while munitions and Teuton officers will be provided for a million Turks who may be expected to attempt, with better prospects of success, to cut the Suez canal. It will be noted that I am making no allowance for the Anglo-French movement from Salonica; there will be lively doings in Macedonia, but they are unlikely to prevent the developments just predicted.

On March 1, 1916, if the war takes, in general, the course I have indicated, the Kaiser will have increased his already large margin of points; the allies will have won no successes of importance excepting possibly in southwestern Russia and Galicia, while affairs in the Balkans will, from the allied point of view, have gone from bad to worse.

But in a prizefight the man who scores most of the points sometimes loses, because he is knocked out. If it is a finish fight, it doesn't matter at all who makes the knockout, but one man is sure to be worn down and take the count. And this consideration brings us to the question of numbers.

In the first place, it is admitted that a margin of error must be allowed for in the following figures; that this margin is relatively small will be evident when the method of compilation is explained.

Germany and Austria together have at present approximately 255 divisions containing 5,100,000 men among the 1,400 miles of battle front, east and west, on the lines of communication, and garrisoning occupied countries. By November 1, the permanent losses of the Austro-German alliance, that is men killed, captured, and too sick or too badly wounded to ever return to duty—will be 6,000,000. On November 1 the reserves available for reinforcing the Austro-German alliance

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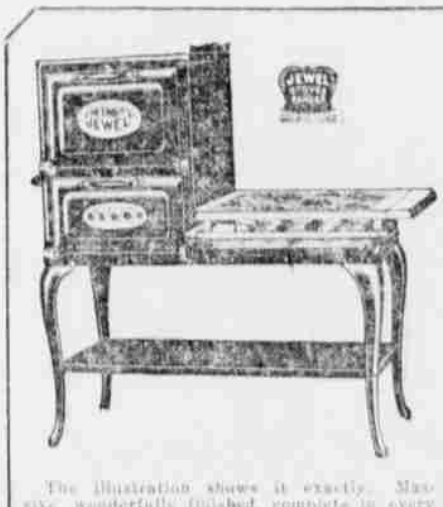
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will amount to 1,000,000 men. The average permanent loss to the Austro-Germans is 400,000 men per month.

Assuming the correctness of these figures, the Austro-German armies will on January 15 commence to go down hill, for on that date the last of their million reserves will appear at the front to fill the gaps and there will be no more men left to make the places of the 400,000 monthly victims.

French Predicament.  
France maintains in the field 100 divisions of 2,000,000 men. Her permanent losses to November 1, roughly, amount to 1,875,000 men, an average of 125,000 men each month since the beginning of the war. M. Millerand, minister of war, has announced that 4,000,000 Frenchmen were mobilized, the last reserves were called up for training some months ago, and there will be on November 1 only 125,000 reserves left to keep the establishment of 2,000,000 up to full strength. Accordingly, on December 1 exactly, if these figures were correct, the French army would begin losing strength.

The figures for the other great powers, who are yet far from exhausting their man power, will be given later. The method of compiling these statistics is explained. Before, the eminent English critic, and Major Mohr of Berlin are two experts who have worked the theory of the calculation out carefully, but each of them forbids to speculate concerning the losses of the armies of his own country or its allies, and consequently their figures, as a means of comparison, are worthless, and they are forced to leave to neutral writers the important deductions which alone make such calculations of interest.

The history of great wars of the past for which figures are available, the Franco-Prussian war, the American civil war and the two recent Balkan wars, shows that when a nation puts its last available man into the field it can arm one-tenth of its population. This figure, as many critics have pointed out, is in the case of truly national war almost inviolable.

### England's Hopes.

In the present war, this "invariable one-tenth" holds up again. It can be tested in many ways. France, with a population of 39,000,000 men, has a population of 3,900,000 men, has the colors, and M. Millerand, given the number of men mobilized at 4,000,000. Great Britain, with a population of 45,000,000, furnished 4,500,000 volunteers, and Kitchener is now after the other 1,500,000 which will make up that one-tenth of the population. That this is Kitchener's aim is proved by the government's official announcement, through Lord Derby's recruiting committee, that 50,000 men are wanted each week for a year. At the end of the year, if the 1,500,000 men are secured by the conscription which will be necessary to maintain such a weekly rate, England will be mobilized to her full capacity, as France.

The population of Germany and Austria combined, when the war broke out, was approximately 121,000,000. According to the "invariable one-tenth" rule, the two empires could put 12,100,000 men in the field. Very careful calculation by British experts indicates that this is the number mobilized, and Mr. Belloc intimates that he has learned that the allied general staffs have made this statement.

### Germany's Strength.

There is another way to check up the Austro-German power at the beginning of the war. There were 27,000,000 men between the ages of 17 and 45 in the two empires in August, 1914. The German army statistics divide youths of 21 into four classes—"fit," "less fit," "still less fit," and "totally unfit." The statistics give 74 per cent of the empire's young men as "ultimately available," but only 53.2 per cent are classed as "fit." It is obvious that the percentage of "fit" recruits below 20 years

and over 30 must be less than among the young men in their prime. One-fourth of the men in their thirties, one-half of those in their forties, are said to be "totally unfit," and so the experts figure that one-third of 2,000,000 out of the 27,000,000 Austro-Germans of suitable age can never appear in the army. This leaves 18,000,000 theoretically available. But boys, women and old men cannot do all the work of making guns, shells and carrying on the irremediable minimum of economic activity which enables the nation at war to live. In England and France it has been calculated that one-third of the men of military age must stay at home and work for their comrades. One-third of 18,000,000 is 6,000,000, and that leaves 12,000,000 subjects of the Kaiser and Franz Joseph available for the trenches. So, by this entirely different method of calculation, we arrive at practically the same figure that the "invariable one-tenth" of the population indicates as the Austro-German fighting force.

The Accurate Losses.  
Now comes the question of losses, about which much nonsense has been written. The method of determining the Austro-German losses to November 1st has been explained in detail. The losses of the other powers have been worked out in much the same manner, with the exception of Russia, which presents a more intricate problem. And, as in the case of the available man power, there are other ways of figuring losses, and when the figuring is done by competent authorities the results are much the same.

The official Austrian casualty lists to August 1, of this year, show 2,083,100 names. Of these names 1,000,000 are listed as men taken prisoners, and the Russian and Italian figures of Austrian prisoners show that this number at that time was correct. The Austrian figures are accordingly accepted by the allies' staffs as accurate.

The German lists to the same date, give 3,178,883 names. While not inaccurate, the German lists are delayed for months at times, and few names appeared in these sheets issued up to August 1 for the fighting in Galicia and Poland, which raged furiously throughout May, June and July. Since the Austrians did most of their fighting against Russia, while Germany has been constantly engaged on two fronts, it seems a not unfair estimate to take the German losses as the same as the Austrian in proportion to the number of troops furnished by each nation. The ratio of German to Austrian troops is as 18 to 10, and it is accordingly calculated that on August 1, the German losses totaled about 3,800,000, giving nearly 7,000,000 for both allies. It must be admitted that there is a chance of error here, but it seems impossible that the error could involve more than 800,000 men, or enough to throw out the calculation of when Germany will use her last reserves by more than two months, and it is probable that the error is within 400,000 men, or one month's time.

### Wounded Who Return.

Taking seven million as the combined Austro-German loss for twelve months to August 1, the loss to November 1 at the same ratio would be about 8,750,000. The calculation of what percentage of men wounded or returned to the front is a most intricate one, but it has been most carefully worked out from the absolutely complete lists of British casualties by experts detailed by the war office to tabulate the history of every invalid in the British army, with the object of compiling accurate estimates of the enemy's losses as well as making the records of Kitchener's men correct. To skip the methods of calculation, it is found that a little less than one-quarter of the men wounded return to their old positions at the front, although a further small percentage of wounded are available eventually for clerical and other duties in the rear or at home. Applying this figure to the total Austro-German loss of 8,750,000 up to November 1, we get



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approximately 6,000,000 men put permanently out of action. The "invariable one-tenth" rule gave 12,100,000 as the total military strength of the central empires, and subtracting 6,000,000 casualties there are 6,100,000 soldiers left. The French, Italian and Russian staffs in the field, from figures that are close to accurate, estimate the number of enemies opposing them at 255 divisions of 29,000 men each, or 7,500,000 men, so that two important conclusions remain:  
There are only 1,600,000 available men not now serving with the forces of the central empires, and if 6,000,000 have been put out of action in 15 months, and fight on the same scale continues, 400,000 Austro-Germans will be killed, wounded and captured each month, so that on January 15 the government has no stand at full strength, but there will be no more reserves! After that it is down grade.

In the same way, as has been said, it is figured that France on December 1 will come to the end of her reserves and conscripts losing 125,000 men a month from her armies.

### Neither at the End.

On England and Russia rest the hope of the quadruple entente, for neither power is at the end of her string. England has permanently lost, according to official figures up to the middle of September, and a close estimate for the past month, 400,000 men. Kitchener has decided to maintain in the field seventy-five divisions of a million and a half men. He now has a million over and above this figure, but the government has decided to keep 500,000 men in England for home defense, so there are only 500,000 men available to reinforce the seventy-five divisions. It is calculated that the fighting will be fiercest next spring and summer than in the past, and that the armies will melt away at a rate of 100 per cent a year, and if this is correct England with the men now available can keep her armies at strength for only four months; hence Kitchener's cry for 20,000 more men each week during the next year, be they volunteers or conscripts. When the year is up, and Great Britain has contributed 4,400,000 men altogether, she, too, will have arrived her "invariable one-tenth" of the population, and be at the termination of her tether.

### Russia Lacks Arms.

Russia has a population of 125,000,000, and should arm 12,500,000 men, under the one-tenth rule. The most careful estimate of Russia's permanent losses I have seen puts the figure at 4,400,000, including 1,600,000 prisoners, and the Germans say there are now 2,500,000 Russian soldiers in the field against them, while the Russians say they have 2,000,000 new recruits training in the rear. If these figures were correct, Russia would have an available man power of 4,400,000 left, but Russia's case is purely academic, because her trouble has been and will be lack of arms for her men, while since she issues no casualty lists the estimates of her losses are worthy of far less credence than those of the other combatants.

matting the losses in Turkey or the Balkans, while Italy has so far put less than half of her mobilized army on the firing line.

In the figures given for Austro-Germany and France, it has been said that there was a considerable margin of error. But an error in the former case of 400,000 men, occurring either at the estimate of men mobilized or of permanent losses, would postpone the date of the commencement of the decline of the central empires' fighting force by only one month. An error of more than 1,200,000 men, or three months' time, is absolutely impossible, and it is a certainty that when the spring campaign begins Germany, Austria and France will be losing men faster than they can replace them, with Germany and Austria losing about 275,000 more men a month than France, and England keeping her 75 divisions at full strength.

### Two Sides of Case.

Do these figures herald the approaching victory of the allies next spring, or at the latest next summer? On the surface, yes. But here is the explanation of a German authority who admits that the decline of the man power of the central empires is fast approaching.

These figures do not take into account the attrition which is coming to mean more than the number of men, nor the machine guns. The allies can never catch up with our machine guns, and each one of them is worth a hundred men. Remember, too, that in modern war the attacker of prepared positions loses more men than the defender. We have paid high for our successes in Russia, but now we will stand fast, east and west, and, beginning next spring, if our enemies attack, the ratio of casualties will change in our favor. France is ruined, the British people will never stand conscription, Russia is on the brink of revolution and can never get the guns to attack us successfully. We have won the war, though it is true that we could not stand another six months at the pace we have been going.

It seems to me that all this calculation proves again what a prophet old Hindenburg was when he said: "The side with the stronger nerves will conquer," and I think the value of all these statistics is not that they prove the allies will win and Germany will lose, but that they show that the present nightmare may be nearing an end. Some one must "crack" next summer!

### Slight Misunderstanding.

Bill Nye used to tell this story of the late Myron W. Reed of Denver: Reed was a bright and original preacher, and many curious people came to hear him. Once a man from the Garrison country arrived at his church rather late Sunday morning while Reed was making a low but earnest prayer. "Louder," yelled the late comer. Mr. Reed ceased his prayer for a moment, looked at the gentleman from over the range, and said: "My friend, I wasn't speaking to you."—New York Globe.